

City of Bismarck Curfew Law

Now that the summer months are upon us, there are many of us who experience changes to our personal schedules. That also goes for many youth in our community: no school, working later hours and more social opportunities that last into the evening hours.

The Police Youth Bureau wants to remind everyone that the City of Bismarck does have and enforces a Code of Ordinance (6-07-02) for Curfew. (www.bismarck.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/153)

The curfew ordinance, simplified, states it is unlawful for:

1. Persons under the age of sixteen years to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, play in or upon, or drive or ride about in a vehicle or be in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, or public buildings, places or grounds **between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.**, and
2. Persons sixteen years and seventeen years of age to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, play in or upon, or drive or ride about in a vehicle or be in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, or other public buildings, places or grounds **between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.**

This section does not apply to:

1. Persons accompanied by a parent, guardian or other adult person having their care and custody, or to persons upon emergency errands, or legitimate business directed by their parent, guardian or other adult person having their care and custody, or to persons traveling to or from a location outside the city on legitimate business or with the consent of a parent or guardian.
2. A person in attendance at, or traveling between that person's home and a place of legitimate employment or an event or activity sponsored by or associated with a school, church, or similar organization, or an organized sporting, political, theatric or other like event or activity, within thirty minutes of the end of the work shift or the conclusion of the event or activity.

Simply, there are two curfew times for youth in the City of Bismarck: 1) youth who are 15 years of age and/or younger are not to be out and about without the supervision of a parent or other guardian after 10:30 p.m.; 2) youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, they are not to be out and about without the supervision of a parent or other guardian after 1:00 a.m. Curfew times are consistent and enforced year-round

In essence, this ordinance does not apply to those youth who are 1) accompanied by a parent or guardian who are out after their curfew time, 2) at a school, church or similar organization related event or activity beyond the curfew time, and 3) are on their way home **within thirty minutes** of the end of their work shift or the conclusion of a school, church or similar organization event or activity.

Lastly, if your child is in violation of the curfew ordinance, children ages 7-17 years old may be issued a juvenile citation and the citation will be referred to Juvenile Court. To avoid this from happening to your child, it is important to know the curfew law within the communities that your child frequents as curfew times may vary from city to city. Also, set and enforce a parental curfew that will ensure that your child is home before or by the time stated within the city's ordinance. These times do not mean that as a parent you can't require your child to be home earlier; they are in place for the safety of your child and the community.

If you may have any other questions reference the City of Bismarck curfew ordinance, please call our office at 355-1896 or send us your questions at 'Ask a Youth Worker' on this website. We hope this information will be helpful to you in setting appropriate the curfew guidelines for your child.